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BASINGSTOKE R.D.C.



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1957.

67419



BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Eastlands,
London Road,
Basingstoke.
May 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1957.

General Health - The outstanding event of 1957 was the influenza epidemic of late September to late November. It was part of the world-wide outbreak of an Asiatic strain of the "A" Virus. It was fortunate that the outbreak occurred in the last quarter of the year, normally the healthiest period. As a result it occurred mainly among the group of the community subject to "crowding", - the school children and the factory worker. The expected return during the winter did not occur. Sonne dysentery occurred in early Spring, spreading chiefly among the infant school population and stopping with the long Summer holiday break. The biennial outbreak of measles occurred this year, but the number of cases notified was low.

Vital Statistics - indicate no change in estimated population as given by the Registrar General, in common with the rest of the country a rise in birth rate and no change in death rate. An unusual feature was the marked increase in deaths in the fourth quarter, probably the result of the influenza epidemic, although the majority of the deaths were not attributed to the respiratory group.

Social and Sanitary Conditions - The slum clearance programme continues to progress and indeed is well ahead of schedule in spite of the difficult year with the credit squeeze.

Steady progress, largely by persuasion, is being made with the new provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts.

The Basing sewerage scheme has started and will be completed in 1958.

Many of the rural schools have had their sanitation improved. School meal kitchens have also been built to some schools.

I am glad to report that during the year four Darby & Joan clubs were started in various parishes and they continue to be appreciatively attended.

Yours faithfully,

P.L. KARNEY,

Medical Officer of Health

/A/

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area.....	74,790 acres
Population - Registrar General's Estimate	
Mid 1956..	17,580
Number of inhabited houses.....	4,609
Rateable value.....	£176,067
Product of penny rate.....	£685

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Live Births					
Legitimate	114	134	248	235	217
Illegitimate	4	6	10	18	20

Birth rate per thousand population (corrected)	16.9	16.12	14.79
Average for England and Wales	16.1	15.6	15.0

Births were mainly in Bramley (37); Basing (30); Sherborne St. John (23); Oakley and East Oakley (22); Sherfield-on-Loddon (12); Stratfieldsaye and Turgis Green (12); Mortimer (11); Wootton St. Lawrence not including Ramsdell (9).

DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Deaths from all causes	186	175	361	354	416
Death rate per thousand (corrected)			8.2	8.4	19.83
Average for England and Wales			11.5	11.7	11.7

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Main Causes of Death.</u>
Under one year	3	2	
1 - 19	1	3	
20 - 44	4	4	
45 - 64	47	28	- Malignant Neoplasm: Coronary Thrombosis: Vascular lesions of nervous system.
65 - 74	50	48	- Heart disease: Vascular lesions of
75 - 89	76	85	nervous system: Coronary disease:
90 +	5	5	Pneumonia.

No. of Deaths occurring in large Institutions.

Park Prewett Hospital	- 143
Basing Road Hospital	- 90

Of the great majority of deaths 75% are of people over the age of 65. An unusual feature this year was the marked increase in the deaths in the fourth quarter(nearly one-third). This was probably the aftermath of the influenza epidemic, although the majority of the deaths were not attributed to the respiratory group.



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MATERNAL MORTALITY.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
From all causes	-	Nil	Nil	1

INFANT MORTALITY.

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Legitimate	-	3	1	4	4	3
Illegitimate	-	1	-	1	-	-

Causes of Death.

		<u>Under 1 week</u>	<u>1-4 weeks</u>	<u>1-3 months</u>
Congenital malformations		3	-	-
Prematurity		1	-	-
Whooping Cough		-	-	1

STILL BIRTHS.

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Legitimate	-	3	1	4	4	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	1	1

Analysis of Causes of Death.

Code No.	Disease	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis Respiratory	2	-	2
3	Syphilitic Disease.....	1	-	1
5	Whooping Cough	1	-	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	5	7
11	Lung & Bronchus.	8	-	8
12	Breast	1	5	6
13	Uterus	-	3	3
14	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	9	13	22
15	Leukaemia.....	1	-	1
16	Diabetes	-	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of Nervous System ..	23	33	56
18	Coronary disease Angina	24	15	39
19	Hypertension with heart disease	9	5	14
20	Other heart disease	36	47	83
21	Other circulatory disease	13	8	21
22	Influenza	2	6	8
23	Pneumonia	11	13	24
24	Bronchitis	7	1	8
25	Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	5	1	6
29	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	3	-	3
31	Congenital malformations.....	2	1	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	12	29
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34	All other accidents.....	3	6	9
35	Suicide	1	-	1
36	Homicide.....	1	-	1

/B/

EPIDEMIOLOGY.

General Health.

The outstanding feature of this year's general health was the Influenza epidemic coming as it did during the autumn which is usually low in sickness rate. Although the epidemic wave seemed to pass quickly, records of claims to sickness at the National Insurance Office and the higher than usual death rate in the fourth quarter indicated it grumbled along for many months. Coming as it did during the healthy period of the year it affected mainly the group of the community subject to "crowding" - the school children and the factory worker. The expected return of the epidemic during the more favourable winter months did not materialise.

"The winter favouring factor" favouring respiratory illnesses appeared to be absent in early 1958.

Earlier in the year there was an outbreak of some dysentery affecting mostly the younger school child and through them their parents and other siblings. The biennial attack of measles occurred this year.

Asiatic Influenza.

The first reported case of Asiatic Influenza occurred early in July in a family recently arrived by air from Aden. Influenza A virus was isolated. This was probably one of the earliest reported in the country. Sporadic cases were beginning to be reported late in August and by September and early October with the return of the children to school the epidemic reached its peak. In general the disease varied from a mild feverish illness with upper respiratory symptoms for a day or two, to an illness up to a week with high fever and a troublesome cough, signs of involvement of the trachea and bronchi. The onset was usually sudden, sometimes dramatically so. There were no complications with the otherwise healthy persons but some complained of a cough long after. Relapses were reported in those who returned to work too early.

Cancer and other Malignant Growths.

Deaths due to or associated with:-

	No.	Average age at death.	Age incidence.
Cancer of Lung & Bronchus	9	60	47 - 79
Larynx	2		
Mouth	2		
Stomach	8	66	55 - 81
Colon	6	63	48 - 82
Rectum	2		
Perineum	1		
Breast	6	67	56 - 82
Uterus	3	64	52 - 72
Ovary	2		
Vulva	1		
Bladder	1		
Prostrate	3	76	73 - 81
Pancreas	2		
Leukaemia	1		
Sarcoma Talus	1		
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Age Groups	3	-	1
	45 - 64	17	6
	65 - 74	6	10
	75 +	2	5

Notifiable Diseases.

Whooping Cough	26
Scarlet Fever	4
Measles	127
Dysentery	22
Pneumonia	10
Food Poisoning	1
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	20
" Non - Pulmonary	2

The following table indicates the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:-

	<u>Whooping Cough</u>	<u>Dysentery</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>Measles</u>	<u>Pneumonia</u>
January	12	-	-	2	1
February	1	1	-	4	2
March	8	-	1	4	2
April	-	7	-	26	1
May	1	1	-	13	-
June	2	8	-	49	-
July	2	4	-	26	-
August	-	-	-	12	-
September	-	1	-	1	1
October	-	-	-	-	2
November	-	-	2	-	-
December	-	-	1	-	1

Measles.

The biennial attack of measles occurred this year. The number of notifications was lower than usual - only 127 cases were notified. As usual the attack was mostly among the young school going group. There were no unusual features.

Dysentery.

One outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred in early spring and extended into the summer months. The cases occurred and spread among the young school going group and from them to the other siblings and the parents. The illness is mild but is of considerable nuisance, especially in infant schools where it spreads rapidly and is difficult to control. Spread is considered to be largely by contact of common articles, door knobs, towels, pencils and books etc.

Immunisation -Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

During the year 250 primary courses were given, of which 82 were with combined vaccine (with whooping cough) and 158 with the triple vaccine (tetanus added). In addition 161 were given booster doses.

Immunisation in relation to child population as at 31.12.57:-

Last complete course of injection (whether <u>primary or booster</u>)	<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 9</u>	<u>10 - 14</u>	<u>Total under 15 years</u>
1953 - 1957	58	751	871	174	1,854
1952 or earlier, child population (approx)	248	1,037	1,198	1,141	1,517
				not known	

This represents about 75% of the 1 - 4 and 5 - 9 year groups immunised within the last 5 years.

Vaccination - Smallpox.

The percentage of children under one year successfully vaccinated during the year ending 31st December 1957 is:-

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Basingstoke Rural District	85.0%	81.0%

Vaccination - Poliomyelitis.

During the year 171 children were given a course of polio vaccine. Vaccination is limited by supplies of vaccine. The number registering has been good, representing about 44% of the group eligible. This has now been extended to include all children under 15 years of age and all expectant mothers.

/C/

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The district comprises 34 parishes and is mainly agricultural and residential. In recent years there has been a considerable increase in new houses built, both by the Council and privately. Amenities have also improved - there is now a piped water supply in most areas and sewerage in all the larger parishes. The estimated population as given by the Registrar General is steady. The birth rate has increased in common with the rest of the country. During the year many of the schools have had improvements.

General Health Services.

The County Council is the Health Authority. The local District Health Sub-Committee are responsible for helping and advising on these services. During the year some interest has been shown in extending the domiciliary health services to help the aged and the problem family.

Maternity and Child Welfare - Health Visiting.

Child Welfare Centres are situated throughout the district. Activities, at which a doctor and nurse attend, include advice on feeding and child management, immunisation and the distribution of welfare foods.

Attendance at these centres has continued to be high, but there are no items of interest to report.

District Midwifery and Home Nursing.

Annual Statistics for 1957 - 1956 figures in brackets for comparison.

	Mid-wifery	<u>CASES</u>		<u>VISITS.</u>	
		<u>All Cases</u>	<u>T.B:</u>	<u>Gen:</u>	
<u>Bramley</u>	46 (32)	2 (3)	255 (315)	3419 (4017)	
<u>Preston Candover</u>	10 (15)	1 (-)	73 (69)	1145 (1453)	
<u>Silchester</u>	25 (14)	2 (2)	53 (46)	887 (1152)	
<u>Upton Grey</u>	23 (19)	1 (-)	140 (139)	928 (890)	
<u>Oakley</u>	22 (15)	2 (2)	136 (154)	1166 (1537)	

Midwifery shows an increase, especially in Oakley, Silchester and Bramley. Most areas show a decrease in the number of visits made, probably because certain drugs can now be given orally instead of by injection. To relieve the nurses in the Borough, Basing has been taken over by the rural nurses and is being temporarily served by the nurse at Upton Grey. It is hoped that a nurse for Basing will be appointed in 1958.

Home Help Services.

Summary of cases assisted.

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Maternity	10	12
General sickness	5	5
Post Hospital	2	3
Child care	-	4
Chronic sickness	2	1
Aged sickness	6	7
Aged and infirm	17	10
Tuberculosis	2	2
	<u>44</u>	<u>44</u>
	=====	=====

The average number of cases assisted per week is 20. The number of child care and maternity cases has fallen and that for the aged has increased - this is largely determined by economic consideration.

Old Peoples' Welfare.

Increasing attention is being paid to Welfare work among the aged. Old Peoples Clubs are now being run at Sherfield-on-Loddon, Mortimer West End, Oakley and Sherborne St. John. Thanks are due to the work of the Hampshire Council of Social Service.

Once again I am grateful to the Welfare Officer for statistics of the work of the Area Welfare Officer for the year (comparative figures for 1956 are given in brackets).

Visits, Applications and Admission to Welfare Accommodation.

No. of cases visited	-	43 (56)
Total cases visited	-	26 (34)
Applications	-	15 (18)
Admissions	-	11 (8)

Senile persons admitted to Mental Hospitals under Section 2, Lunacy Act	-	9 (5)
Visits to aged sick persons and confined to bed service for chronic sick	-	7 (3)

Perhaps the history of a case would illustrate the type of work undertaken:- A lady of 79 living alone in a thatched country cottage in very poor condition. The Area Welfare Officer thought it necessary to draw the attention of the Sanitary Authorities to this woman with a view to taking proceedings under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act. Fortunately after some persuasion she agreed to enter an Old Peoples' Home. After a short stay in the home it was realised that she was mentally ill and she was admitted to Park Prowett Hospital. She was a lady with a certain amount of means and it was necessary for the County Welfare Officer to be appointed as a Receiver.

/D/

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Housing.

Number of dwellings completed since 1945 (as at 31.12.57).

	<u>Total</u>	Completed	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Private	466		69	150	56
Council	576		53	60	15

The houses completed by the Council were at Goddards Close, Sherfield-on-Loddon and Water Ridges, East Oakley. In addition, modernisation of the older houses at Lane End, Bramley, Station Road, Cliddesden and Cold Harbour, North Waltham were undertaken.

The private housing was at Basing and Pamber.

Details of re-housing under "slum clearance" are in the Public Health Inspector's report.

Water.

No new schemes were undertaken during the year. Piped water supply is now available in all the villages in the district with the exception of Ellisfield. The latter awaits Ministerial sanction.

Regular sampling of water is done by the Department (details in the Public Health Inspector's report) and by the Statutory Water Company.

Sewerage.

Sewerage schemes at Sherfield-on-Loddon, North Waltham and Sherborne St. John are completed. At Basing the work has commenced and is about 25% completed. The sewer laying in School Lane is substantially completed.

As stated in the last year's report, difficulty had been experienced in the heavy use of detergent (in the laundry at Park Prewett Hospital) at the Sherborne St. John plant and it was decided to instal a sludge digestion plant.

MAY 1958.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following report concerning work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors during 1957.

During the year emphasis was again laid upon the improvement of food hygiene and housing standards throughout the district. Each of these most important duties involved a considerable proportion of your officer's time, and improved conditions were achieved by patient approach to the owners and occupiers concerned. It is gratifying to note that the Council's requirements were again met without resorting to legal action.

Number and Nature of Visits and Inspections.

Houses under Public Health Acts	444
Houses under Housing Acts	358
Houses under Housing Acts 1949 - 1954	314
Overcrowded Houses	6
Re-Housing applications	118
re Disinfection of Premises	11
re Water Supply	168
Petroleum Installations	30
Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites	146
Factories	34
Schools	17
Refuse Collection and Disposal	303
Rodent Control	42
Cesspool Emptying Service	84
Re-visits following service of notices	212
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	84
Complaints received and investigated	96

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

Outstanding December 1956		Served 1957		Complied with 1957		Outstanding December 1957	
Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal
10	43	14	144	18	81	6	106

FOOD PREMISES.

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors regarding food and food premises were as follows:-

	<u>No. in District.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>
General Provision Shops	51	75
Meat Shops	6	21
Inns and Off Licences	44	34
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	8	33
Bakehouses	4	12
Registered Ice Cream Premises	45	47
Registered Sausage Manufacturers	5	22
Hospitals, etc.	7	5
Dairies and Milk Distributors	36	47
Poultry Packers	2	6
Schools	24	12
Clubs	11	4
Total -	243	318
	=====	=====

MILK SAMPLING.

<u>Grade of Milk</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Pasteurised	18	17	1
Tuberculin Tested	10	8	2
Undesignated	6	5	1
Total -	34	30	4
	====	====	====

All the undesignated milk samples proved negative for Myco. Tuberculosis. Brucella abortus organisms were isolated in one sample and the appropriate authority was informed.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

10 samples were taken and were reported upon as follows:-

Grade 1	-	10
" 2	-	nil
" 3	-	nil
" 4	-	nil

There are no ice cream manufacturers in this District and only pre-packed ice cream is sold.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

No public slaughterhouses exist in the area, but your Officers again gave assistance to the local Borough Council in the inspection of meat for brief periods when they experienced staff shortages.

UN SOUND FOOD.

No cases of unsound food being exposed for sale were found, and it was unnecessary to make any seizures of food. The following foods were surrendered to your Officers as being unfit for human consumption:-

Canned foods	-	34 lbs
Meat	-	544 lbs
Fish	-	4 stones
Miscellaneous	-	5 lbs

FOOD HYGIENE.

Owners and occupiers of food premises again co-operated satisfactorily to fulfil the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. 32 informal notices were served and improvements were made at 23 premises.

Unsatisfactory standards of cleanliness were found on three occasions, but were quickly rectified by the persons concerned.

Investigations were made regarding the bacteriological standard of water used in watercress beds, and of the watercress itself. From samples taken, it was shown that the majority of beds were contaminated by coliform bacilli and faecal coli.

It is hoped that a method of chlorination, which will satisfactorily disinfect the watercress without affecting its taste, will be brought into operation by growers in the future.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Public mains supplies were sampled regularly during the year, Details of these are as follows:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Bacteriological	15	1
Chemical	7	nil

The unsatisfactory bacteriological sample was from the Portsmouth Estate Mains at Nutley. This supply is to be taken over by the Mid-Wessex Water Company.

Of 35 samples taken from private sources, 17 proved unsatisfactory. Action was taken to provide a satisfactory alternative supply in these cases, or improvements to wells were made when no piped supply was available.

An investigation was carried out to ascertain those areas in the district where small groups of properties have no proper supply available and having due regard to public health and finance might warrant future extensions of mains at public expense.

SWIMMING POOL.

The only public swimming pool in the district at Basing was well attended during the summer months. Regular sampling of the water was undertaken by this department and all the samples were reported upon as being very satisfactory.

HOUSING ACTS.

The Council's 10 year programme for the clearance of unfit houses again made excellent progress throughout the year and is now well ahead of schedule.

During 1957 a further 32 families comprising 84 persons were rehoused. The wishes of older persons to be resettled in villages of their own choice received sympathetic respect and so far as I am aware no hardship has resulted from the transfer of tenants to alternative accommodation.

As a result of formal action 18 houses were demolished, 5 were closed and undertakings, to the effect that a further 20 should be used for some purpose other than human habitation, were accepted.

Improvement Grants.

Since grants were first made available in 1950, the Council has done much to preserve the rural character of the district by assisting the ownerstowards the cost of improving and reconditioning over 250 properties.

Although during 1957 the funds allotted for this purpose were much reduced in comparison with former years, it was still possible to approve 38 applications in respect of 54 properties. Two applications were rejected.

Certificates of Disrepair.

One Certificate of Disrepair was granted during the year.

Repairs.

Excluding properties improved by way of a Council grant or by private improvement, 102 houses were rendered fit for habitation, as a result of informal action by your Officers.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

A fortnightly kerbside collection continues to operate throughout the district and all refuse is delivered to the centrally controlled tipping site at Kiln Lane, Sherborne St. John.

Over 1000 new dwellings have been erected in the district since the war and larger refuse collections are resulting in increased calls upon the labour and vehicle strength available. The purchase in 1956 of the S.D. Fore & Aft Diesel Freighter of larger capacity has minimised journeys to the tip and vehicles of similar type can be commended for future policy.

The 1946 Dennis reserve vehicle has reached the stage when it is no longer economical to maintain and it warrants future expenditure, only upon its roadworthiness. It remains essential to retain a vehicle in reserve, not only for breakdowns and special collections but also to enable proper maintenance on other vehicles to be carried out.

The Bristol 22 Angledozer purchased in 1953 for levelling and consolidation at the tip face continues to give excellent service. This machine received a major overhaul during the past year.

Garaging facilities at the Coronation Road Depot are adequate. Wanton damage to doors and windows caused concern during last summer but conditions have since improved.

During the year the following materials were salvaged and a bonus scheme for the employees continued:-

		<u>Quantity</u>				<u>Value</u>		
		Tons	Cwts	Qrs	lbs	£	s	d
Paper	-	59	6	2	6	458	13	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rags	-	-	19	-	27	28	17	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Metals	-	1	3	-	-	8	1	-
						£495	11	7
						=====		

Comparative figures with former years are:-

1956	-	£533
1955	-	£556

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

Although most properties in North Waltham, Sherborne St. John and Sherfield-on-Loddon are now connected to main drainage and cesspools have been abolished, the service again worked to capacity and considerable overtime became necessary to cope with orders received.

I have referred in previous reports to difficulties experienced in obtaining suitable disposal sites, particularly in Spring, and if for practical reasons the sewers cannot be utilised to an increasing extent the costs of disposal will rise in proportion to the additional mileage and labour incurred.

Charges for the work were increased in April 1957 to:-

1st Load (or part load)	30/-
Subsequent loads (or part loads)	23/-

The rate Fund now contributes to this service with a sum equal to one half the cost of emptying domestic pits after the owner has paid fully for the service twice in a financial year.

A 10% reduction on all charges where a contract is entered into, continues.

During the year 2178 loads were removed, 12339 miles covered and the income from the service was £2596.13s.6d.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

34 inspections were made and it was found necessary to serve four written notices, three of which were complied with.

SHOPS ACT 1950.

A total of 102 inspections were made, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences. Five written notices were served and complied with.

PESTS.

No premises were found with bed-bug or flea infestations.

DRAINAGE AND CONVERSION OF TOILETS INTO WATER CLOSETS.

In the parishes of North Waltham, Sherborne St. John and Sherfield-on-Loddon 68 properties were connected to public sewers, and 43 toilets converted to water closets. Owners continue to take advantage of the provisions in the Public Health Acts which permit the Council to assist towards the cost incurred. In the parishes referred to, many public health nuisances arising from overflowing cesspools and polluted ditches and streams were abated, and householders much appreciated that there is no longer a necessity to dispose of pail closet contents in an unhygienic manner.

In June the Council considered a detailed report upon drainage conditions in Bramley, and resolved that whilst it is a matter calling for constant observation, there appeared no immediate need for the provision of a public sewer and disposal works.

RODENT CONTROL.

Although reasonably heavy rat infestations occurred during the winter months, these were quickly brought under control. Surveys of all types of properties continued and the Contract Service for agricultural properties was increased to include 60 farms.

Details of rodent control work carried out during the year were:-

- 1) Number of properties inspected -
 - a) Domestic and business - 1,602
 - b) Agricultural - 284
- 2) Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections)
 - a) Domestic and business - 2,982
 - b) Agricultural - 1,420
- 3) Properties found infested by
 - a) Rats - 408
 - b) Mice 51
- 4) Number of properties treated by Council's Rodent Operators - 456
- 5) "Block Control" schemes carried out - 88

LICENCES IN FORCE.

Petroleum	-	88
Slaughtermen	-	2
Slaughterhouses	-	1
Game Dealers	-	2
Moveable Dwellings	-	53
Milk Distributors	-	36
Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	-	45

Finally, I should like to record my thanks to the staff in the Department for their assistance and loyal co-operation.

Yours obediently,

P.C. BOX,
Senior Public Health Inspector.

